

MANASSEH

A. One of the great tragedies of the Old Testament is that of the king Manasseh.

1. His life certainly proves that sin pays no dividend beyond the actual immediate pleasure of it (Eph 5:5-6; Gal 6:7-8).

I. The Advantages of Manasseh

A. [He was raised as a Jew in Israel while the nation was faithful to God.](#)

Romans 3:1-2 – What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? 2 Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.

B. [He had a godly father, Hezekiah.](#)

2 Kings 18:3 – And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done (2 Kings 20:2-6).

C. [Manasseh had access to one of the greatest of Old Testament prophets Isaiah.](#)

II. The Choice of Manasseh

[Even with the great advantages Manasseh had, he still chose to do evil! He became king at 12 years old. (2 Kings 21:1). At this age he would be very susceptible to the advice of the princes of Judah (1 Kings 12:6-8; 1 Cor 15:33).

A. [Manasseh completely gave himself over to evil.](#)

2 Kings 21:2-9 – And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel. 3 For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; he raised up altars for Baal, and made a wooden image, as Ahab king of Israel had done; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. 4 He also built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name." 5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord. 6 Also he made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger. 7 He even set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the Lord had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever; 8 and I will not make the feet of Israel wander anymore from the land which I gave their fathers — only if they are careful to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that My servant Moses commanded them." 9 But they paid no attention, and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel.

1. [He worshipped idol Gods and built altars in Israel.](#)
Assyrian god's that were completely discredited by God during his father's reign! (2 Kgs 21:3)
 - a. The appeal of these gods was not truth but the flesh. (Immorality)

2. [He desecrated the temple of the true God](#) (2 Kings 21:4-5).
 - a. When one departs from the worship of the True God there remains no restraints (Rom 1:21, 24).

3. [He killed his own children in pursuit of pleasure](#) (2 Kings 21:6) – like the sin of abortion.

4. [He disdained the word of God](#) (2 Kings 21:7-8)
 - a. He wanted worship to be relevant for his generation; he no longer wanted a negative religion based upon do's and don'ts.

5. [He led the people into sin](#) (2 Kings 21:9).

6. [He hated the rebuke of faithful prophets.](#)

2 Kings 21:10-15 – And the Lord spoke by His servants the prophets, saying, 11 "Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations (he has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols), 12 therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle. 13 And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab; I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. 14 So I will forsake the remnant of My inheritance and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become victims of plunder to all their enemies, 15 because they have done evil in My sight, and have provoked Me to anger since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day.'"

1. God was merciful to give Him warning.

2. But how did Manasseh respond?

2 Kings 21:16 – Moreover Manasseh shed very much innocent blood [probably Isaiah too], till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides his sin by which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the Lord.

{Turn to 2 Chronicles 33}

III. The Fall and Repentance of Manasseh

A. God kept his word concerning Manasseh.

2 Chronicles 33:10-11 – And the Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen. 11 Therefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon.

1. Though many are like Pharaoh, hardened by humiliation, Manasseh would react differently.

B. Manasseh made a genuine repentance to God.

2 Chronicles 33:12-13 – Now when he was in affliction, he implored the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, 13 and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.

1. Why did he remember God at this time? Because of the good influences he had early in life.
2. Give Manasseh credit, he bore fruit worthy of repentance.

2 Chronicles 33:14-16 – After this he built a wall outside the City of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate; and it enclosed Ophel, and he raised it to a very great height. Then he put military captains in all the fortified cities of Judah. 15 He took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the Lord, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the Lord and in Jerusalem; and he cast them out of the city. 16 He also repaired the altar of the Lord, sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it, and commanded Judah to serve the Lord God of Israel.

[Remember one can never fall too low to be forgiven if they repent.]

IV. The Unstoppable Consequences of the Sins of Manasseh

A. He could not bring back those he put to death!

1. He could not save those who died in the idolatry he introduced (Heb 9:27).

B. He could not bring a full restoration of the nation.

2 Chronicles 33:17 – Nevertheless the people still sacrificed on the high places, but only to the Lord their God.

C. He could not bring a full restoration of his family.

2 Chronicles 33:21-23 – Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. 22 But he did evil in the sight of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done; for Amon sacrificed to all the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and served them. 23 And he did not humble himself before the Lord, as his father Manasseh had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more.

1. He was named after an idol God of Egypt.
2. What would his son have said to him after his change?

D. He could not clear his own name.

2 Chronicles 33:18-19 – Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, his prayer to his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the Lord God of Israel, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel. 19 Also his prayer and how God received his entreaty, and all his sin and trespass, and the sites where he built high places and set up wooden images and carved images, before he was humbled, indeed they are written among the sayings of Hozai.

1. Like the scars on his lips, his past would not go away.

E. He could not avert the eventual destruction of his people.

1. The Babylonians did come and wipe Jerusalem as a dish.
2. When this happened Manasseh was given credit.

Jeremiah 15:1-4 – Then the Lord said to me, "Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My mind would not be favorable toward this people. Cast them out of My sight, and let them go forth. 2 And it shall be, if they say to you, 'Where should we go?' then you shall tell them, 'Thus says the Lord: "Such as are for death, to death; and such as are for the sword, to the sword; and such as are for the famine, to the famine; and such as are for the captivity, to the captivity.'" 3 "And I will appoint over them four forms of destruction," says the Lord: "the sword to slay, the dogs to drag, the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the earth to devour and destroy. 4 I will hand them over to trouble, to all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, for what he did in Jerusalem.

3. Manasseh was saved, but his influence was felt for generations.

4. Remember the consequences of sin!

Exodus 34:5-7 – Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. 6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

Conclusion: Does it pay to sin in your youth and repent in your dotage (old age)?

Not even the blood of Christ can remove all consequences.

Once we leave the foundational truths of God's word, the consequences are devastating.